

DECOMMISSIONING APPLICATIONS AND REPORTS TABLE—Continued

Decommissioning applications and reports	When to submit	Instructions
(d) Pipeline decommissioning application.	Before you decommission a pipeline	Include information required under § 250.1751(a) or § 250.1752(a), as applicable.
(e) Post-pipeline decommissioning report.	Within 30 days after you decommission a pipeline	Include information required under § 250.1753.
(f) Site clearance report for a platform or other facility.	Within 30 days after you complete site clearance verification activities.	Include information required under § 250.1743(b).
(g) Form MMS-124, Application for Permit to Modify (APM). The submission of your APM must be accompanied by payment of the service fee listed in § 250.125.	(1) Before you temporarily abandon or permanently plug a well or zone	Include information required under §§ 250.1712 and 250.1721.
	(2) Within 30 days after you plug a well * * *	Include information required under § 250.1717.
	(3) Before you install a subsea protective device	Refer to § 250.1722(a).
	(4) Within 30 days after you complete a protective device trawl test.	Include information required under § 250.1722(d).
	(5) Before you remove any casing stub or mud line suspension equipment and any subsea protective device.	Refer to § 250.1723.
	(6) Within 30 days after you complete site clearance verification activities.	Include information required under § 250.1743(a).

[67 FR 35406, May 17, 2002; 67 FR 44265, July 1, 2002; 67 FR 66047, Oct. 30, 2002, as amended at 71 FR 40913, July 19, 2006]

PERMANENTLY PLUGGING WELLS

§ 250.1710 When must I permanently plug all wells on a lease?

You must permanently plug all wells on a lease within 1 year after the lease terminates.

§ 250.1711 When will MMS order me to permanently plug a well?

MMS will order you to permanently plug a well if that well:

- (a) Poses a hazard to safety or the environment; or
- (b) Is not useful for lease operations and is not capable of oil, gas, or sulphur production in paying quantities.

§ 250.1712 What information must I submit before I permanently plug a well or zone?

Before you permanently plug a well or zone, you must submit form MMS-124, Application for Permit to Modify, to the appropriate District Manager and receive approval. A request for approval must contain the following information:

- (a) The reason you are plugging the well (or zone), for completions with production amounts specified by the Regional Supervisor, along with substantiating information demonstrating

its lack of capacity for further profitable production of oil, gas, or sulfur;

- (b) Recent well test data and pressure data, if available;
- (c) Maximum possible surface pressure, and how it was determined;
- (d) Type and weight of well-control fluid you will use;
- (e) A description of the work; and
- (f) A current and proposed well schematic and description that includes:
 - (1) Well depth;
 - (2) All perforated intervals that have not been plugged;
 - (3) Casing and tubing depths and details;
 - (4) Subsurface equipment;
 - (5) Estimated tops of cement (and the basis of the estimate) in each casing annulus;
 - (6) Plug locations;
 - (7) Plug types;
 - (8) Plug lengths;
 - (9) Properties of mud and cement to be used;
 - (10) Perforating and casing cutting plans;
 - (11) Plug testing plans;
 - (12) Casing removal (including information on explosives, if used);
 - (13) Proposed casing removal depth; and

§ 250.1713

30 CFR Ch. II (7–1–10 Edition)

(14) Your plans to protect archaeological and sensitive biological features, including anchor damage during plugging operations, a brief assessment of the environmental impacts of the plugging operations, and the procedures and mitigation measures you will take to minimize such impacts.

[67 FR 35406, May 17, 2002; 67 FR 66048, Oct. 30, 2002]

§ 250.1713 Must I notify MMS before I begin well plugging operations?

You must notify the appropriate District Manager at least 48 hours before beginning operations to permanently plug a well.

§ 250.1714 What must I accomplish with well plugs?

You must ensure that all well plugs:

- (a) Provide downhole isolation of hydrocarbon and sulphur zones;
- (b) Protect freshwater aquifers; and
- (c) Prevent migration of formation fluids within the wellbore or to the seafloor.

§ 250.1715 How must I permanently plug a well?

(a) You must permanently plug wells according to the table in this section. The District Manager may require additional well plugs as necessary.

PERMANENT WELL PLUGGING REQUIREMENTS

If you have—	Then you must use—
(1) Zones in open hole	Cement plug(s) set from at least 100 feet below the bottom to 100 feet above the top of oil, gas, and fresh-water zones to isolate fluids in the strata.
(2) Open hole below casing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A cement plug, set by the displacement method, at least 100 feet above and below deepest casing shoe; (ii) A cement retainer with effective back-pressure control set 50 to 100 feet above the casing shoe, and a cement plug that extends at least 100 feet below the casing shoe and at least 50 feet above the retainer; or (iii) A bridge plug set 50 feet to 100 feet above the shoe with 50 feet of cement on top of the bridge plug, for expected or known lost circulation conditions.
(3) A perforated zone that is currently open and not previously squeezed or isolated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A method to squeeze cement to all perforations; (ii) A cement plug set by the displacement method, at least 100 feet above to 100 feet below the perforated interval, or down to a casing plug, whichever is less; or (iii) If the perforated zones are isolated from the hole below, you may use any of the plugs specified in paragraphs (a)(3)(iii)(A) through (E) of this section instead of those specified in paragraphs (a)(3)(i) and (a)(3)(ii) of this section. (A) A cement retainer with effective back-pressure control set 50 to 100 feet above the top of the perforated interval, and a cement plug that extends at least 100 feet below the bottom of the perforated interval with at least 50 feet of cement above the retainer; (B) A bridge plug set 50 to 100 feet above the top of the perforated interval and at least 50 feet of cement on top of the bridge plug; (C) A cement plug at least 200 feet in length, set by the displacement method, with the bottom of the plug no more than 100 feet above the perforated interval; (D) A through-tubing basket plug set no more than 100 feet above the perforated interval with at least 50 feet of cement on top of the basket plug; or (E) A tubing plug set no more than 100 feet above the perforated interval topped with a sufficient volume of cement so as to extend at least 100 feet above the uppermost packer in the wellbore and at least 300 feet of cement in the casing annulus immediately above the packer.
(4) A casing stub where the stub end is within the casing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A cement plug set at least 100 feet above and below the stub end; (ii) A cement retainer or bridge plug set at least 50 to 100 feet above the stub end with at least 50 feet of cement on top of the retainer or bridge plug; or (iii) A cement plug at least 200 feet long with the bottom of the plug set no more than 100 feet above the stub end.
(5) A casing stub where the stub end is below the casing.	A plug as specified in paragraph (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this section, as applicable.
(6) An annular space that communicates with open hole and extends to the mud line.	A cement plug at least 200 feet long set in the annular space. For a well completed above the ocean surface, you must pressure test each casing annulus to verify isolation.
(7) A subsea well with unsealed annulus.	A cutter to sever the casing, and you must set a stub plug as specified in paragraphs (a)(4) and (a)(5) of this section.
(8) A well with casing	A cement surface plug at least 150 feet long set in the smallest casing that extends to the mud line with the top of the plug no more than 150 feet below the mud line.
(9) Fluid left in the hole	A fluid in the intervals between the plugs that is dense enough to exert a hydrostatic pressure that is greater than the formation pressures in the intervals.
(10) Permafrost areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A fluid to be left in the hole that has a freezing point below the temperature of the permafrost, and a treatment to inhibit corrosion; and (ii) Cement plugs designed to set before freezing and have a low heat of hydration.